



PSC NEWS

Missouri Public Service Commission

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FY-05-19

PSC APPROVES AGREEMENT GRANTING SUSPENSION OF LOCAL NUMBER PORTABILITY IMPLEMENTATION FOR HOLWAY TELEPHONE

Jefferson City (July 30, 2004)---The Missouri Public Service Commission has approved an agreement seeking a suspension of requirements for Holway Telephone Company to implement local number portability (LNP) in its service area. The agreement approved by the Commission grants a two-year suspension. The agreement also grants modifications regarding call rating and routing issues.

Holway Telephone Company sought the suspension because its facilities are not currently LNP-capable. Holway Telephone stated that implementing wireline-to-wireless LNP would require the telephone company to incur costly implementation expenses and would result in substantial ongoing costs. Holway Telephone indicated that suspension would benefit it and its customers by limiting LNP costs to one switch replacement instead of two sets of costs: an immediate switch upgrade to make the existing switch LNP-capable, followed shortly by a switch replacement. Holway Telephone determined a switch replacement is a more economical and practical solution for the company and its customers.

Under LNP, a customer would be able to take his/her land line telephone number to another provider (such as wireless).

The agreement presented to the Commission sought the two-year suspension in order for Holway Telephone Company to avoid the imposition of a significant adverse economic impact on its subscribers and to avoid imposing an undue economic burden on the telephone company. The agreement also noted that the suspension would ensure that subscribers would not be forced to bear the costs for something from which they are unlikely to benefit.

The Commission stated that granting the suspension and modification is consistent with federal law in that "it is necessary to avoid a significant adverse economic impact on users of telecommunications services generally and to avoid imposing a requirement that is unduly economically burdensome".

The agreement approved by the Commission was submitted by Holway Telephone Company, the Office of the Public Counsel and the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission.

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